

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The A method according to Claim 1~~ for issuing a label, comprising:

feeding a first label sheet comprising a support and a thermosensitive adhesive layer located overlying one side of the support, wherein the first label sheet has a timing mark on the thermosensitive adhesive layer, said timing mark being located at a point apart from a side edge of said first label sheet;

detecting the timing mark; and

cutting or semi-cutting the first label sheet along a line, to produce a second label sheet, such that said timing mark is located at a point apart from said line,

wherein the timing mark is present at a position other than corners of the second label sheet, wherein a ratio of an area of the timing mark to an area of the second label sheet is from 0.5 to 35 %, and wherein an outer edge of the timing mark is apart from an outer edge of the thermosensitive adhesive layer of the second label sheet.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the outer edge of the timing mark is at least 5 mm apart from a nearest outer edge of the thermosensitive adhesive layer.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the outer edge of the timing mark is at least 5 mm apart from a nearest side edge of the thermosensitive adhesive layer.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The A method according to Claim 5~~ for issuing a label, comprising:

feeding a first label sheet comprising a support and a thermosensitive adhesive layer located overlying one side of the support, wherein the first label sheet has a timing mark on the thermosensitive adhesive layer;

detecting the timing mark; and

cutting or semi-cutting the first label sheet to produce a second label sheet,

wherein the timing mark is present at a position other than corners of the second label sheet, wherein a ratio of an area of the timing mark to an area of the second label sheet is from 0.5 to 35 %, and wherein a thermosensitive recording layer is formed overlying the other side of the support,

said method further comprising:

heating the thermosensitive recording layer to record an image thereon before detecting the timing mark.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The A method according to Claim 5~~ for issuing a label, comprising:

feeding a first label sheet comprising a support and a thermosensitive adhesive layer located overlying one side of the support, wherein the first label sheet has a timing mark on the thermosensitive adhesive layer;

detecting the timing mark; and

cutting or semi-cutting the first label sheet to produce a second label sheet,

wherein the timing mark is present at a position other than corners of the second label sheet, wherein a ratio of an area of the timing mark to an area of the second label sheet is from 0.5 to 35 %, and wherein a thermosensitive recording layer is formed overlying the other side of the support,

said method further comprising:

heating the thermosensitive recording layer to record an image thereon after detecting the timing mark and before cutting or semi-cutting the first label sheet.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The A method according to Claim 1~~ for issuing a label, comprising:

feeding a first label sheet comprising a support and a thermosensitive adhesive layer located overlying one side of the support, wherein the first label sheet has a timing mark on the thermosensitive adhesive layer;

detecting the timing mark; and

cutting or semi-cutting the first label sheet to produce a second label sheet,

wherein the timing mark is present at a position other than corners of the second label sheet, wherein a ratio of an area of the timing mark to an area of the second label sheet is from 0.5 to 35 %, and wherein the timing mark is printed on the thermosensitive adhesive layer using at least one of ultraviolet crosslinking inks and electron beam crosslinking inks.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The A method according to Claim 1~~ for issuing a label, comprising:

feeding a first label sheet comprising a support and a thermosensitive adhesive layer located overlying one side of the support, wherein the first label sheet has a timing mark on the thermosensitive adhesive layer;

detecting the timing mark; and

cutting or semi-cutting the first label sheet to produce a second label sheet,

wherein the timing mark is present at a position other than corners of the second label sheet, wherein a ratio of an area of the timing mark to an area of the second label sheet is from 0.5 to 35 %, and wherein the thermosensitive adhesive layer comprises a silicone-modified thermoplastic resin and a solid plasticizer.

Claim 11 (currently amended: ~~The A method according to Claim 1~~ for issuing a label, comprising:

feeding a first label sheet comprising a support and a thermosensitive adhesive layer located overlying one side of the support, wherein the first label sheet has a timing mark on the thermosensitive adhesive layer;

detecting the timing mark; and

cutting or semi-cutting the first label sheet to produce a second label sheet,

wherein the timing mark is present at a position other than corners of the second label sheet, wherein a ratio of an area of the timing mark to an area of the second label sheet is from 0.5 to 35 %, and wherein a difference in light reflectivity between a timing mark area and a non-mark area is not less than 45 % in a wavelength range of from 880 nm to 920 nm.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The A method according to Claim 1~~ for issuing a label, comprising:

feeding a first label sheet comprising a support and a thermosensitive adhesive layer located overlying one side of the support, wherein the first label sheet has a timing mark on the thermosensitive adhesive layer;

detecting the timing mark; and

cutting or semi-cutting the first label sheet to produce a second label sheet,

wherein the timing mark is present at a position other than corners of the second label sheet, wherein a ratio of an area of the timing mark to an area of the second label sheet is from 0.5 to 35 %, and wherein the timing mark comprises a near-infrared absorbing colorant having an absorption property such that a maximum absorption peak is present at a wavelength of from 800 to 1000 nm.

Claim 13 (original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the near-infrared absorbing colorant is selected from the group consisting of polymethine dyes, squarilium dyes, dithiol metal complexes, dithiolene complexes, aminium dyes, imonium dyes, and phthalocyanines.

Claim 14 (original): The method according to Claim 11, wherein the timing mark comprises a white pigment having an absorption at a wavelength of from 880 to 920 nm.

Claim 15 (original): The method according to Claim 14, wherein the white pigment is preferably selected from the group consisting of electroconductive zinc oxide, electroconductive titanium oxide, electroconductive tin oxide, and electro-conductive indium oxide.

Claim 16 (canceled)